

participation of the State of Nebraska in the compact. There was a deep concern on the part of Senators Scofield, and Schellpeper, Peterson, Korshoj, and a number of other senators who were impacted, Senator Conway, about this impact upon, number one, their area and, number two, primarily the amount of state oversight that was available for the setting of low-level radioactive waste sites. The bill that they introduced had some objections raised by members of the committee. We got an Attorney General's opinion, and the Attorney General gave us the parameters under which we could amend the bill so as to give the State of Nebraska the maximum amount of oversight and review possible, and still maintain our responsibility under the provisions of the compact. Several other states, including the State of Kansas, were discussing pulling out of the compact. The reason we do not want to pull out of the compact, in my opinion, is that if Nebraska does pull out, then we must provide for a site for our own generated low-level radioactive waste. Of the five members of this compact, Nebraska is the largest generator of all five. As it stands now, we have one chance in five of being a repository for low-level radioactive waste. If we pull out of the compact, it is guaranteed that we will have to provide a site for that type of waste. We think, and I believe, I am sure that Senator Scofield and Senator Schellpeper, with whom I have discussed these amendments somewhat, in fact they cooperated in...I was going to say conspire, they did not conspire, they cooperated on the drafting of the amendment, and I am sure they concur that this is about as good as we can do to assure the citizens of Nebraska that we will not just automatically become a dumping ground for this type of waste, not only from Nebraska, but from four other states. I think that both Senator Schellpeper, Senator Scofield and others will, of course, address the amendment. I would recommend the amendments be adopted. I think that it is the best we can do, and I would hope that we would adopt the amendments, that the bill would become law, that we would continue to remain within the compact, and provide for an orderly type of disposal for this waste. This is also one of those bills that was mentioned numerous times in the debate on other bills, both in committee and on the floor, because we intend as a Natural Resource Committee to hold extensive interim studies this summer in order to determine if there are other alternatives available in regard to disposal of this type of waste. The committee members agree with myself and others in this Legislature that the entire area of waste disposal is one of high public concern. It is one which is not going to go away, and it is one which is going to have to be addressed, and